

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been amended to precisely recite that in the battery of the present invention comprising an electrode unit which is a power generation element housed in a battery can, and in which electricity can be taken out from a pair of negative and positive electrode terminals which are exposed outside the can, a coating layer consisting of the same material of which one of the negative and positive electrode terminals is made is formed on a surface of the other of the negative and positive electrode terminals.

New claims 7-12, which recite a combination of at least two batteries connected in series in which each battery corresponds to a battery as recited in claims 1-6, respectively, have been added to the application. New claims 7-12 are supported in the application, inter alia, by Fig. 11, which shows a partial view of the batteries of the invention connected in series, and by the description of Fig. 11.

Referring to the Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Shimamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,008,720) (hereinafter: "Shimamura"). Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanafusa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,531,246) (hereinafter: "Hanafusa") in view of

Yageta et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0146621) (hereinafter: "Yageta").

Applicants respectfully submit that Shimamura fails to support a case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and fails to support a case of *prima facie* obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of the claims of the applications now in the application and that the combination of Hanafusa and Yageta fails to support a case of *prima facie* obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of the claims of the applications now in the application.

As noted above, the claims now precisely recite that in the battery of the present invention, a coating layer consisting of the same material of which one of the negative and positive electrode terminals is made is formed on a surface of the other of the negative and positive electrode terminals. With such a structure, when the batteries of the present invention are connected in series, the coating layer of an electrode terminal contacts the surface of the other electrode terminal. The coating layer of the electrode terminal and the other electrode terminal are made of the same material. Therefore, even when the batteries are used connected in series for a long period of time and are exposed to air, electrical corrosion that is caused by the contacting of different metals as in conventional batteries will not occur.

Neither Shimamura nor Hanafusa discloses or suggests a battery in which a coating layer consisting of the same material of which one of the negative and positive electrode terminals is made is formed on a surface of the other of the negative and positive electrode terminals and neither discloses or suggests a combination of at least two batteries connected in series in which each battery is the same and is a battery in which a coating layer consisting of the same material of which one of the negative and positive electrode terminals is made is formed on a surface of the other of the negative and positive electrode terminals.

Removal of the rejections is in order and is respectfully solicited.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated May 25, 2006, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

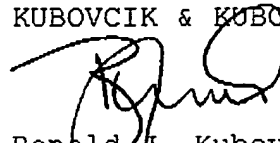
PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/633,419  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT  
NON-FINAL**

In the event any additional fees are required, please also  
charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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